

EPISODE #78  
December 23, 1992

# The Valley COMIC

N ♦ E ♦ W ♦ S

STORIES:  
GUNS 'N' POSES  
HERE I COME TO SAVE THE DAY  
OTHER STUFF



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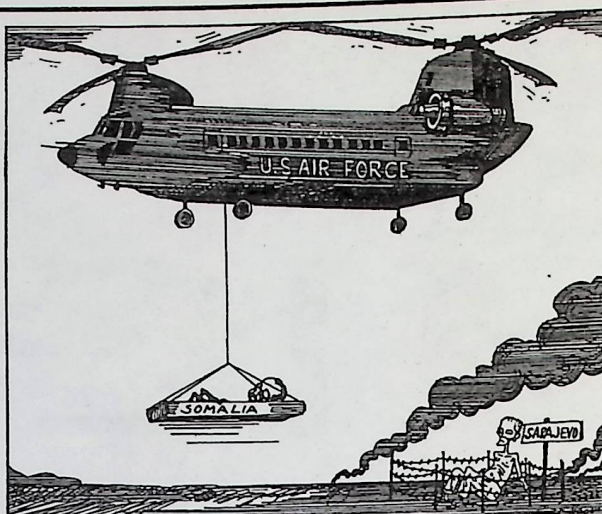




# VIEWS OF THE WORLD



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Sao Paulo  
BRAZIL



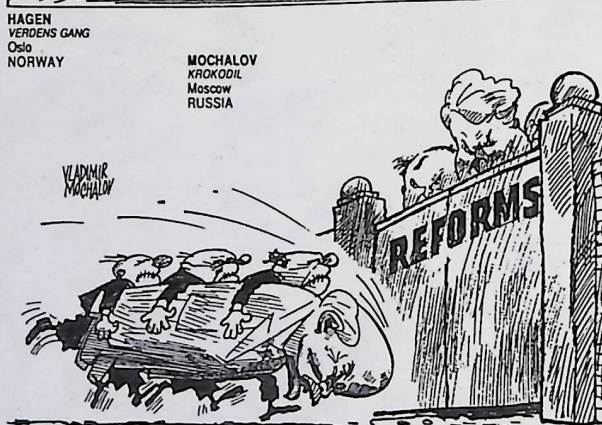
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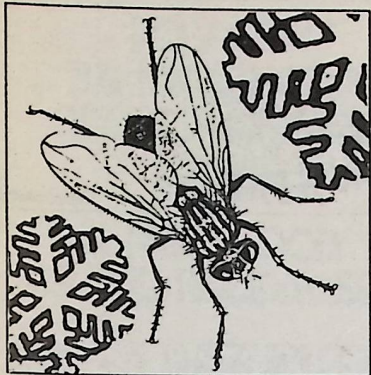


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# PAGE THREE

by Mike Chrisman



So, we just finished up with the worst winter storm in (pick one): 100 years, 40 years, your lifetime, the history of the universe. Damage everywhere...pain, anguish, raw power, nature's unleashed and terrible might...and they call it Winter Storm Beth. *Beth*?! What kind of name is *Beth* for a primal display of force like this one?

I think it's about time the people who name the storms climb aboard the clue-mobile. Nobody wants to tell their grandchildren, "...ahhh, yes, we lost our house and all your father's baseball cards — which would have enabled you to go to college

— in Hurricane Tiffany." No, they need to take a page out of Marvel Comics...see how those guys name *their* fearsome characters. Does the Fantastic Four struggle to save the world from the desperate evil clutches of Jerry? Is Spiderman about to be crushed by the nefarious Fred? Come on, people, you got weather that's gonna blow entire houses into the ocean; call it *Destructo*! A storm smashes four feet of heavy snow onto a series of defenseless hilltowns, call it *Storm Merciless*! Forecasters see something like Hurricane Andrew looming on the horizon, they should alert the nation: Beware...*The Flatteners*! But Beth?? No, no, no. I dated a Beth in high school. She was a nice girl. She wouldn't hurt a fly.

And say, that gets me thinking: What *about* this expression, "wouldn't hurt a fly"? Have you actually ever known *anybody* who wouldn't hurt a fly? Me neither. People *hate* flies. That's why they sell fly swatters. To hurt flies so much they become dead. And flypaper. And Venus flytraps. What rural dweller, overrun by enormous, stupid, dive-bombing flies in their south windows, hasn't fantasized about cultivating an entire windowsill full of Venus flytraps, and then standing back to watch the idiotic flies meet a slow and grisly doom. Heh heh.

Oh sure, lots of people, once they quit becoming male teenagers, won't pull the wings off flies anymore...at least not in public. But this doesn't mean they don't want to *hurt* them. I know I've always gotten a guilty, perverse glee out of watching flies trying to wriggle out of flypaper. I just imagine their conversations: "Hey, Morty, this stuff is *really* sticky. What should I do?" "I dunno, Frank. Try buzzing your wings like a maniac. Oops...got them stuck too."

My all-time favorite technique is to suck 'em up with the Dustbuster.™ This is one use they never show in the ads, but for my money, it's about the best thing you can do with the tool. Then, because it's always winter when these plug-ugly, dirt-stupid flies come swarming over my windows, I take the machine outside to empty it. I figure if they're smart enough to build a fire and stay warm, the flies deserve to live.

So call me a gentle giant if you have to. Call me an old softie. Call me a sissy, a pansy, a nerd. Fine. Just don't say, "Oh, that Mike — he wouldn't hurt a fly." Because the flies — who know better — they call me *The Annihilator*!

## The Valley Comic News

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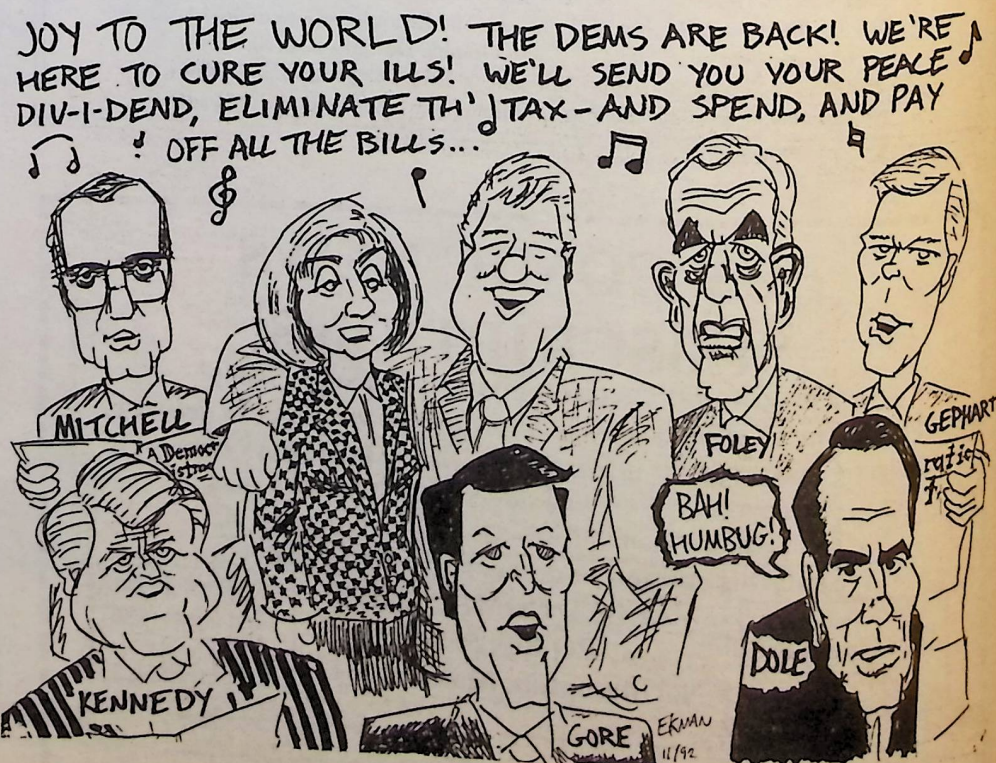
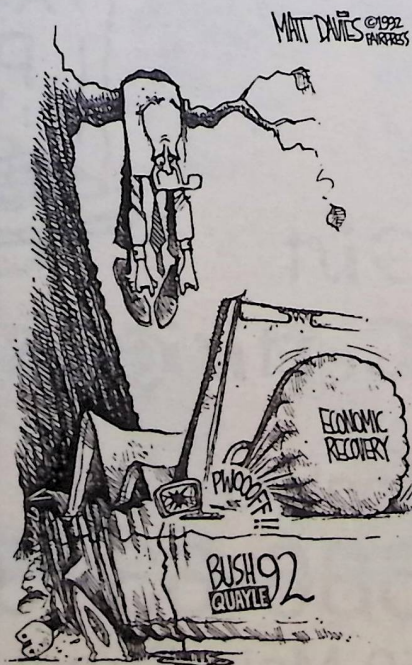
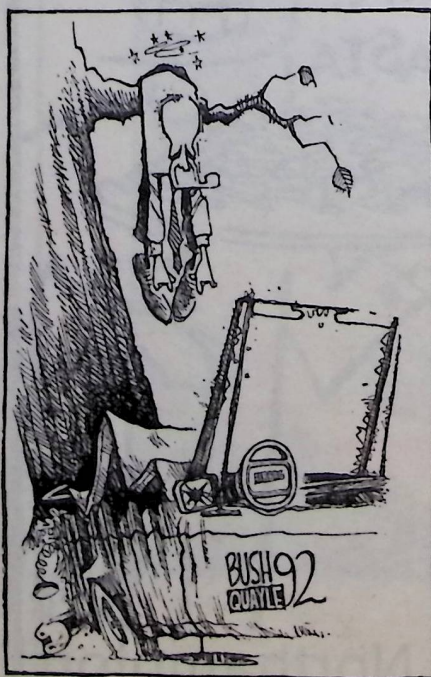
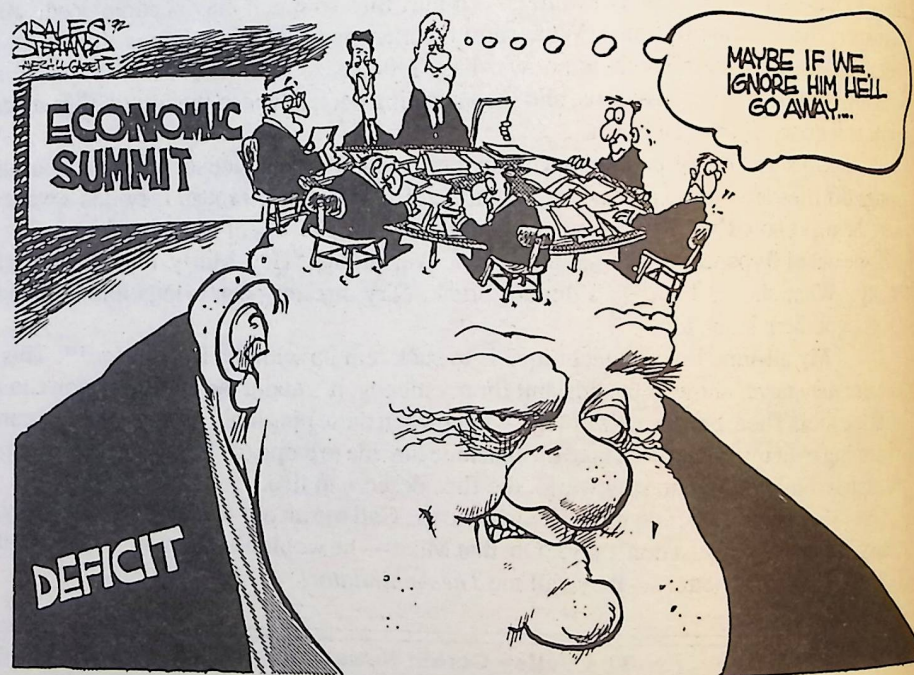
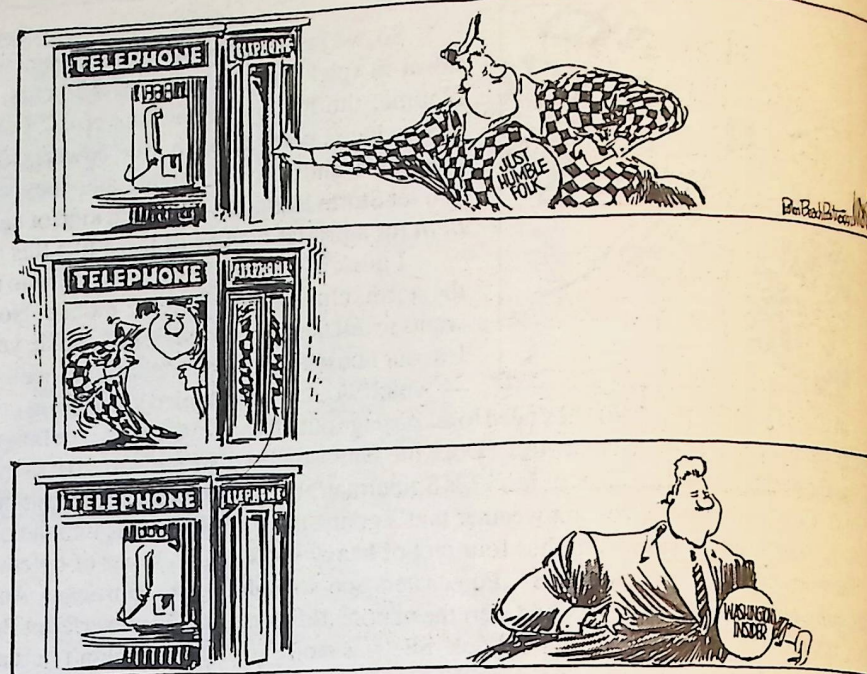
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# HERE I COME TO SAVE THE DAY





# GUNS 'N' POSES

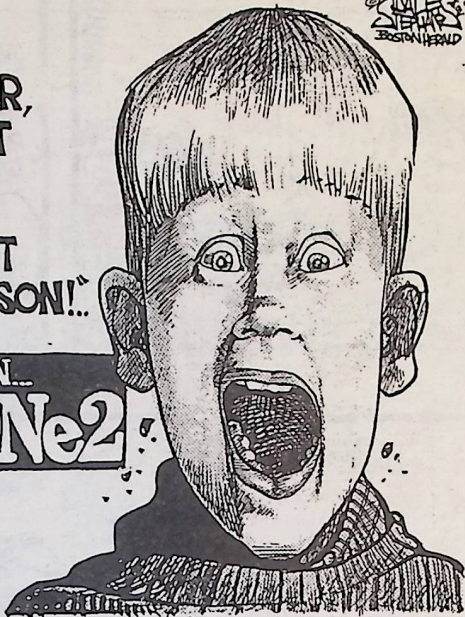
"HOLY COW!  
...THE KINDER, GENTLER,  
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"THE FEEL GOOD HIT  
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RESERVISTS' KIDS IN...  
**HOME ALONE 2**

LOST IN SOMALIA

**PG** PARENTS GONE  
FOR THE HOLIDAYS



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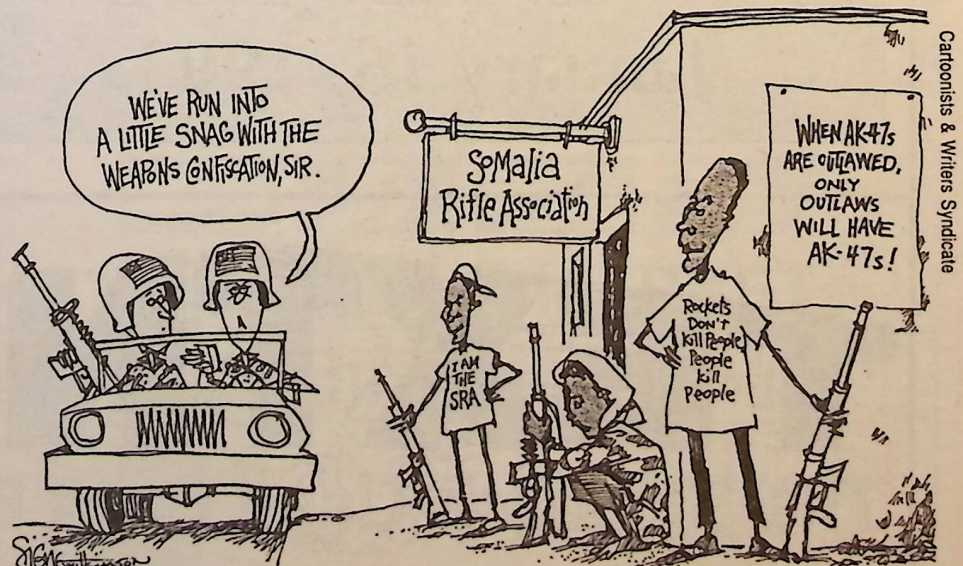


SMILES  
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A DARKROOM, SOMEWHERE IN SOMALIA ....

MATT DAVIES  
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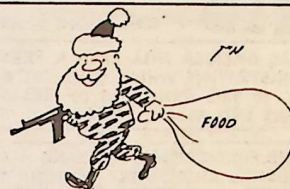
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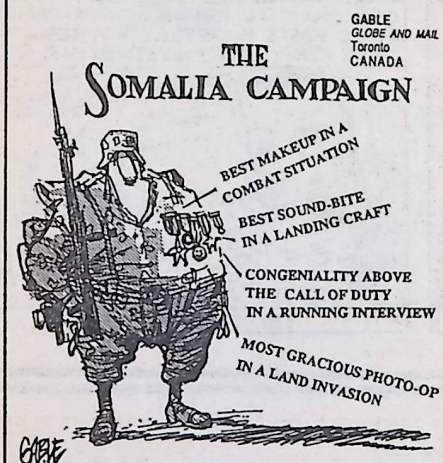
# VIEWS OF THE WORLD



## VIEWS of the WORLD

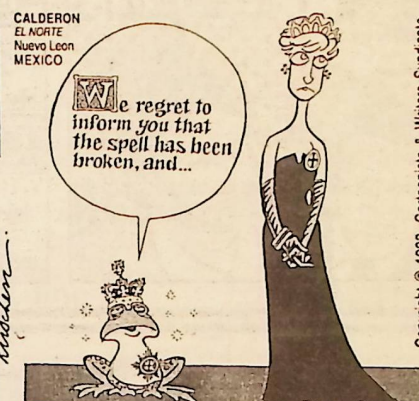
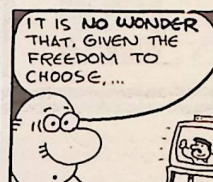


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# THIS MODERN WORLD BY TOM TOMORROW

## THIS MODERN WORLD

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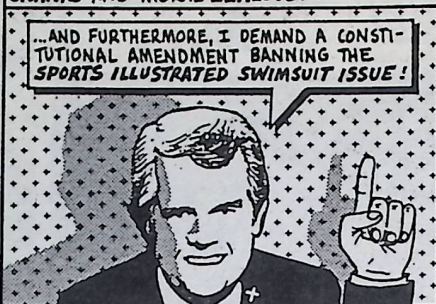
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GOOD GOD...HIS ETHICS CODE HAS LOOP-HOLES BIG ENOUGH TO DRIVE A BRINKS TRUCK THROUGH...HIS TRANSITION TEAM IS CRAWLING WITH LOBBYISTS...



## THIS MODERN WORLD

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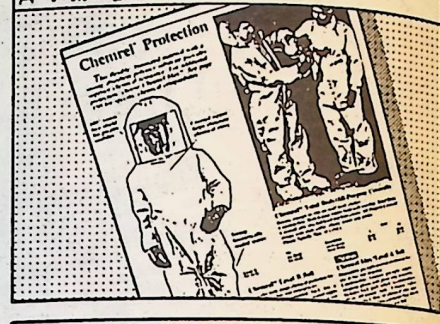
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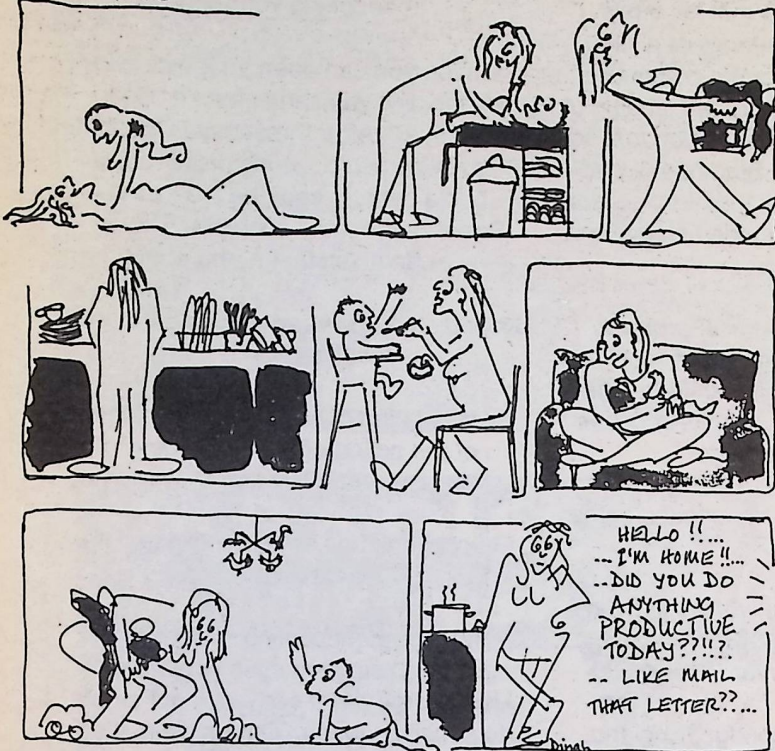
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# LOCAL HEROES

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## BALCONY VIEW

by Paul Phipps



## dog feathers

by Giles Hopkins



ED AND JOE WERE INDEFATIGABLE CRITICS OF SOCIAL BEHAVIOR AND PART-TIME DEMOGRAPHERS.

## HAIR OF THE DOG

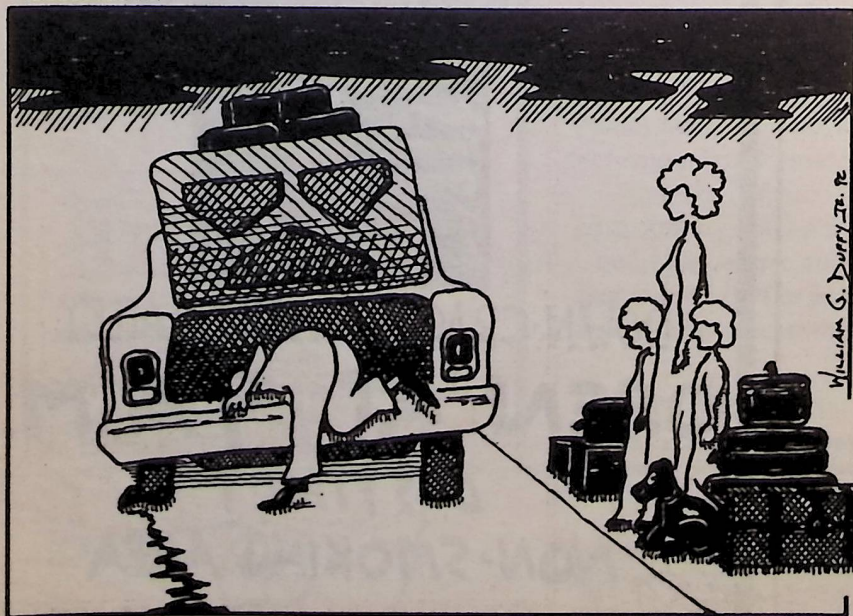
by Flaherty



JERRY'S DISPUTE OVER THE HEATING BILL ENTERS ITS SECOND WEEK.



## THINK'R



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F. JAMES CORWIN '92



# TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT by L.M. Boyd

An ancient Persian proverb translates, "One good father can do more than 100 schoolteachers."

It's true the early bird gets the worm, but so does the late bird. Worms come out both in the morning and the evening.

The electric eel of South America can generate enough electricity to stun a horse or drive a small motor.

Q. Who invented wax paper?  
A. Thomas Edison.

A typical American spends three times as much every year on taxes as on food.

It's illegal to import peanuts.

Some people may be surprised to learn that the intestinal parasite known as the tapeworm needs so little food it doesn't influence its host's appetite at all.

The bearded man of distinction in Shakespeare's day starched his beard.

Crocodiles can't chew.

The likelihood that a scientist will marry another scientist is five times greater than the likelihood an artist will marry another artist.

Q. When did women start outliving men?

A. About 60 years ago when childbirth deaths dropped. In those few places worldwide where statistics indicate men outlive women, the childbirth deaths remain high.

In 1934 Dr. Wallace H. Carothers named his remarkable invention "Polymer 66." It was somebody else who changed the name to "Nylon."

What would you give for 5,000 acres of Kentucky's greenest land? George Washington traded a race horse, named Magnolia, for it.

Excuse Me Dept.: Not only was suicide against the law in 19th-century Great Britain, but conviction carried the death penalty.

Q. How high up do you have to get before you can't hear anything?

A. Without atmosphere, sound won't carry around 80 miles up.

Richard W. Sears of Sears, Roebuck and Co. saw to it that his firm's catalogs always were just a little smaller than those of the competition. In livingrooms, he said, the smaller of two catalogues will be put on top, so be picked up first. Students of marketing say his knack for interpretation of detail was what made him his kind of genius.

The "jack" in "jackknife" probably comes from the name of the man who made the first folding knife, a 17th century Belgian known as Jacques (Jack) of Liege.

No fish have even been found in the Dead Sea.

Q. Name the first university to build a stadium especially for football.  
A. Harvard.

Local law in Cambridge, England, makes it illegal for anyone to bathe in a pond or river there unless dressed in "suitable drawers."

Recently (November, 1992) baseballs autographed by Nolan Ryan were selling for \$49.99

In Greece you can go to jail for abandoning your dog.

Maybe you can open a nightclub in Boston, but you can't name it "Coconut Grove." After the original Coconut Grove burned down so disastrously half a century ago, the Licensing Board decreed no such place could ever be given that name again.

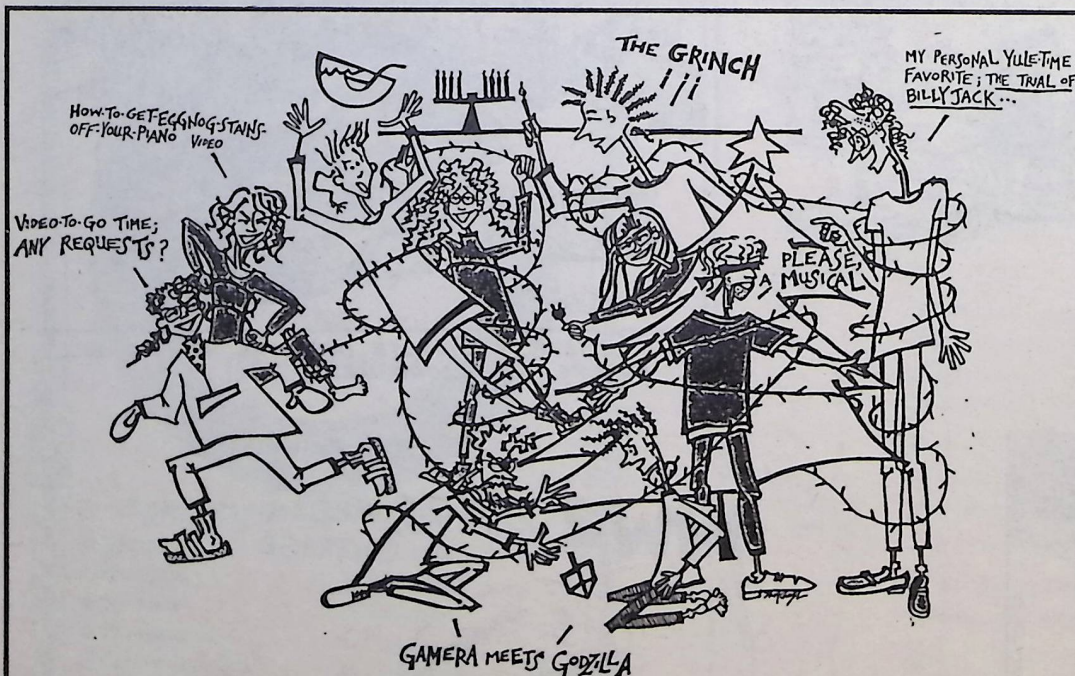
Nobody still knows why dogs bark and wolves don't.

Q. What kind of car did the president of the palindrome society buy?  
A. A Toyota.

Every skunk has its own individual fur markings.

The argument continues over why people close their eyes when they kiss. Some say it's to block out sight to sensitize touch. Others claim it's because they can't look at each other at that range without their eyes crossing.

It is said that one out of every twenty words now spoken on the streets of Paris is an English word.



## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

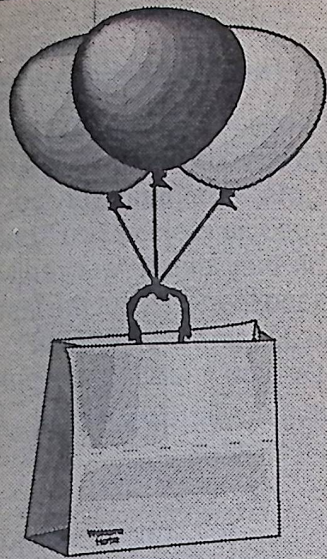
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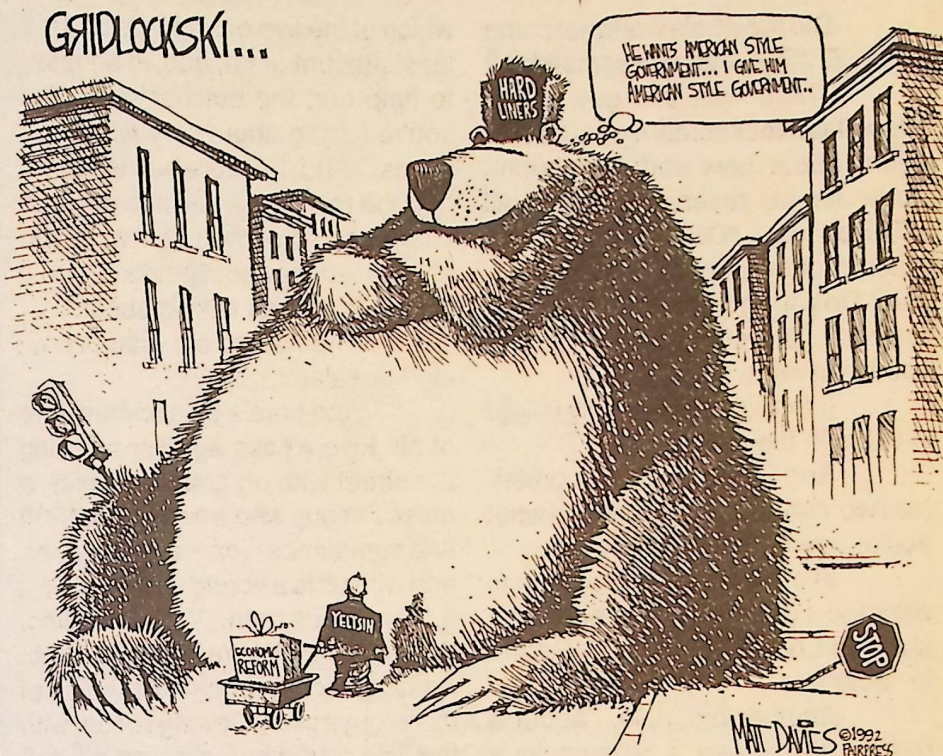
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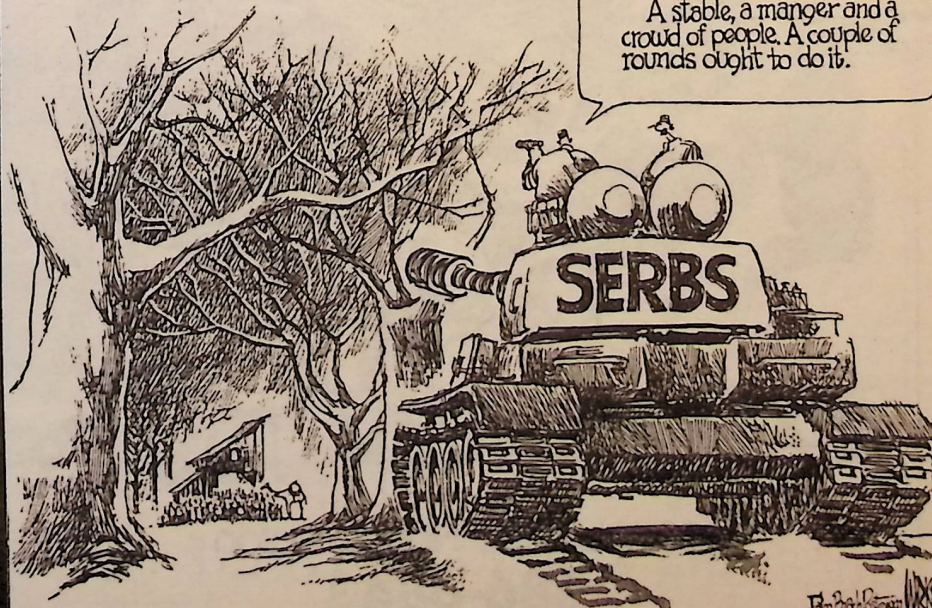
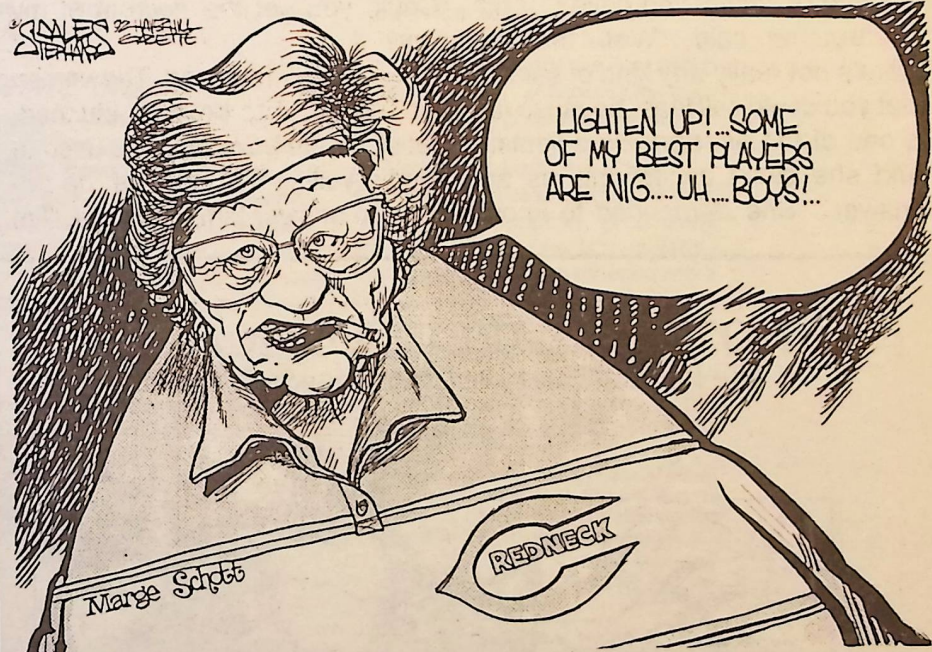


## OTHER STUFF

GRIDLOCKSKI...



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# JOE BOB BRIGGS

Did the whole world get some bad LSD this summer or something?

There was this guy at the airport last week screaming at a ticket agent about how she was gonna suffer for his reservation being all screwed up. "Do you know how much money I spend with this airline? Do you know how much money I spend? Do you? Answer me! Do you know what I'm saying?"

(I thought people only talked like this in the movies.)

And finally, this poor brutalized woman says, "I understand what you're saying, yes."

In other words *she gave in to the guy!* I guess she figured that, if she didn't, he might turn into Al Pacino in "Scarface."

Another example. About a month ago I saw a woman in a butcher shop ask, "What is the leanest type of salami you have?" And the butcher said, "Well, ma'am, there's not really *any* kind of salami that you could call lean, because fat is one of the principal ingredients." And she didn't accept this as an answer. She *demand*ed to know

which of the five or six kinds had the least amount of fat, and, in an effort to help her, the butcher said, "But you're talking about very *tiny* differences." And the more he tried to tell her, the more steamed she got, and finally she screamed at him, "If you knew *anything* about nutrition, you'd know what I was talking about!"

And walked out without buying her salami.

And here's the weirdest one of all: Five weeks ago I'm crossing the street with an amateur boxer, a muscular guy who weighs about 200 and sometimes works as a bouncer, and with us is a young woman who's a friend of us both. We're strolling. We're talking. We're taking our time. Ambling along. Behind us is one of those guys in the flowing robes, with the little round hat, carrying a briefcase. Suddenly we hear this voice: "Could you get the *hell* out of my way?"

And I'm stunned. The woman is stunned. The boxer is stunned. But since the boxer is more used to people yelling than we are, he decides to answer him. He says, "I'm

sorry, but in this country, the appropriate term is 'Pardon me.'"

And then the flowing-robes guy goes off with a two-minute string of profanity that would have shocked everyone in the universe, with the possible exception of the newsroom of the New York Post. Fortunately, we were turning into the next building. The woman literally *ran* for the elevator. The boxer calmly listened to everything the guy hurled at him, then said, "Did you get up on the wrong side of the bed this morning?" And the guy started in *again*. I hit the "close door" button to avoid becoming a witness in a lawsuit.

So what's the common denominator here? In all three cases, there weren't any "fighting words." There weren't any disputes. Somebody just shows up, *already mad*, and starts in on *you*. At random. It used to just be street people and mental patients that did that. Now we've got people driving in from the suburbs and *then* going crazy.

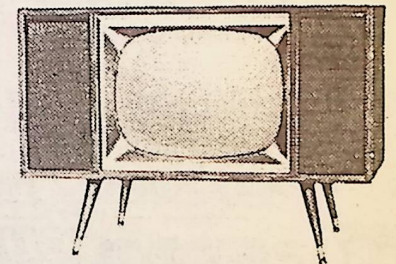
You know what I'm talking about?

I'm always reading these

"customer service" articles that talk about how everyone needs to "insist on your rights," "demand service," "insist that people respect you," but I don't think they mean "get really hacked off and then pick out the first person you see and *murder* him."

Let's stop insisting on our rights for about, oh, eight weeks. I could use the rest.

*Iron Joe Bob*, Joe Bob's long-awaited book claiming his rightful place as the leader of the Men's Movement, is now available from Atlantic Monthly Press. To discuss the meaning of life with Joe Bob, or to get his world-famous newsletter, write Joe Bob Briggs, P.O. Box 2002, Dallas, TX 75221. Joe Bob's Fax line is always open: 214-368-2310. **COPYRIGHT CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.**



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# EARTHWEEK: A DIARY OF THE PLANET


By Steve Newman

## Tribal Losses


 A report by the Worldwatch Institute warned that the loss of tribal peoples around the world could further threaten already endangered plant and animal species. Up to 5,000 indigenous groups live outside the Earth's dominant culture and occupy 12 percent of the land; since these peoples live closer to nature they have unique knowledge that could help protect the planet's biological diversity, the report said. "Most consider themselves caretakers, not owners of the land," report-author Alan Thein Durning said of the estimated 300 million tribal people living in 70 countries.

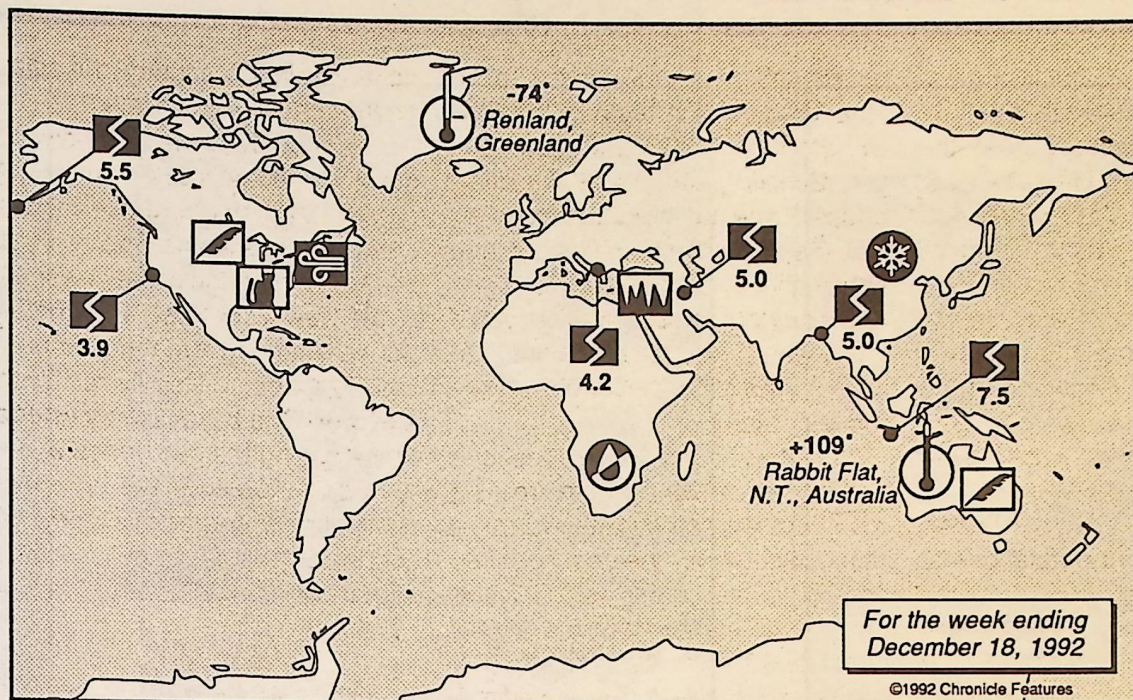
Native peoples from the North American Great Plains to the Australian Outback are leaving the land and abandoning ancient practices faster than modern science can collect information about their ways of life. Durning believes knowledge could be gained about plant-based medicines and how these groups sow their crops to ensure good results despite uncertain weather.

## Winter Woes


 The Middle East braced for another unusually harsh winter as snow fell on Jerusalem and Amman and heavy rain lashed Lebanon. Rain and floods along the Beirut-Tripoli highway caused a Syrian tour bus to overturn, killing five people. In Amman, the first snowfall was accompanied by gales and freezing temperatures.

## Sino Snow

 The official Chinese Xinhua news agency reported that six heavy snowstorms have imperiled 54,000 herdsman and more than 7 million head of livestock in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. The report said that the snow was three to four times deeper than in previous years, and was covering pastures needed by the livestock to survive.




## Earthquakes

 More than 3,000 people perished when a huge temblor struck the Indonesian islands of Flores, Sumba, Alor, and Kalaotoa, sending 85-foot-high ocean waves pounding into coastal communities. The titanic seismic waves left dead bodies, debris, and giant tuna fish from the Flores Sea strewn over many stretches of shoreline. Thousands of other people were missing and may have been swept out to sea.


Earth movements were also felt in Albania, Iran, the Aleutian Islands, central California, and along the India-Bangladesh border.

## Out of Drought


 Beneficial rains have been falling over much of drought-ravaged southern Africa, but rainfall totals are still below normal in some places. According to the Southern Africa Development Community's regional early-

warning unit, analysis of satellite pictures indicates that conditions are even worse than last year in northern and eastern parts of Zambia. Meanwhile, swarms of army worms have invaded the southern provinces, destroying newly sprouted maize and grass shoots.

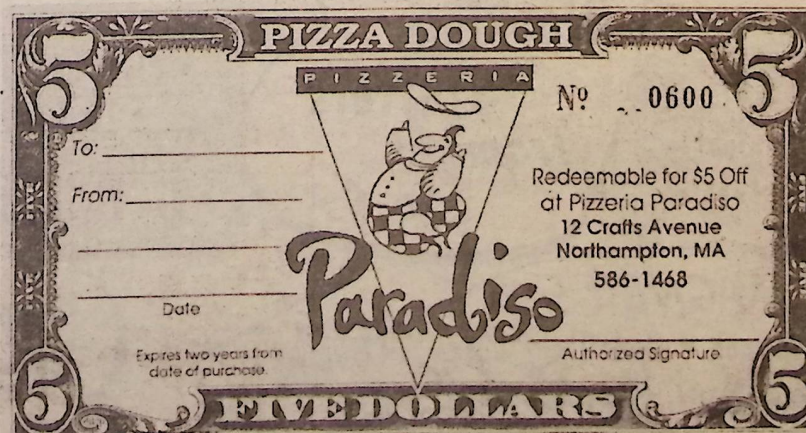
## Lifetime Storm

 A lethal Atlantic storm of an intensity that can be expected only once in a lifetime pummeled the northeastern U.S. coast from Maryland to Maine. At least 17 deaths were blamed on the storm which spun pounding surf into coastal cities and dumped heavy snow over the interior. Sea walls and seaside homes crumbled, and the wet snow caused massive power failures in several states. Tempest-tossed New York City was brought to a virtual standstill when torrential rains flooded the subway system and parts of the commuter rail network.

## First Cat

 An animal expert warned that Socks, President-elect Clinton's cat, may behave in a less-than-acceptable manner as the animal adjusts to life in the White House. "Moving into a new home can be as disruptive for a family cat as it is for the rest of the family," said Dr. Nicholas Dodman, director of the clinical behavior program at the Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine. Cats may experience stress when moving from one home to another, particularly when the new home is completely unfamiliar and has the lingering scent of the previous occupants' dog; in this case, Millie. Dodman warned that Socks may communicate its stress by a loss of appetite, or possibly by leaving its signature in the corners of the executive mansion.

*Additional Sources: Meteo France, British Meteorological Office, U. S. Climate Analysis Center, U. S. Earthquake Information Center, and the World Meteorological Organization.*



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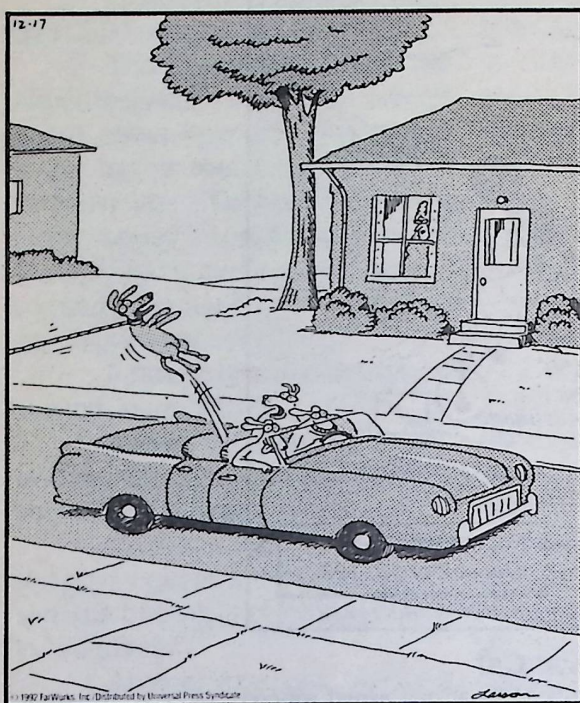


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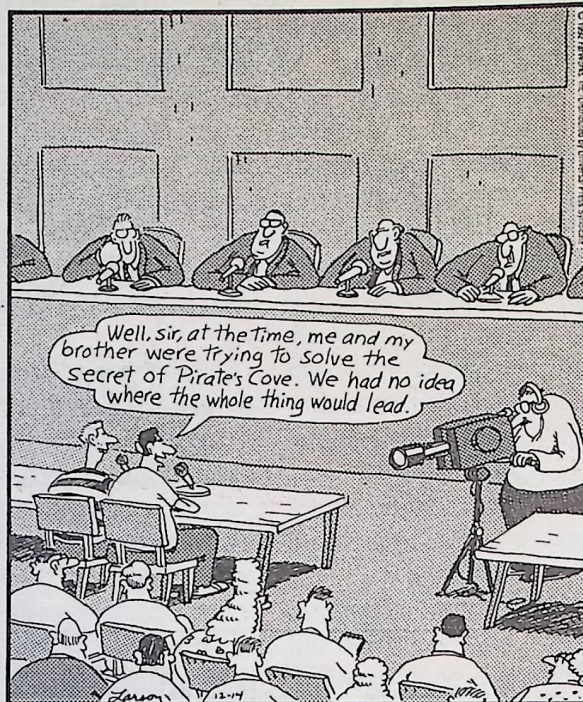


# THE FAR SIDE

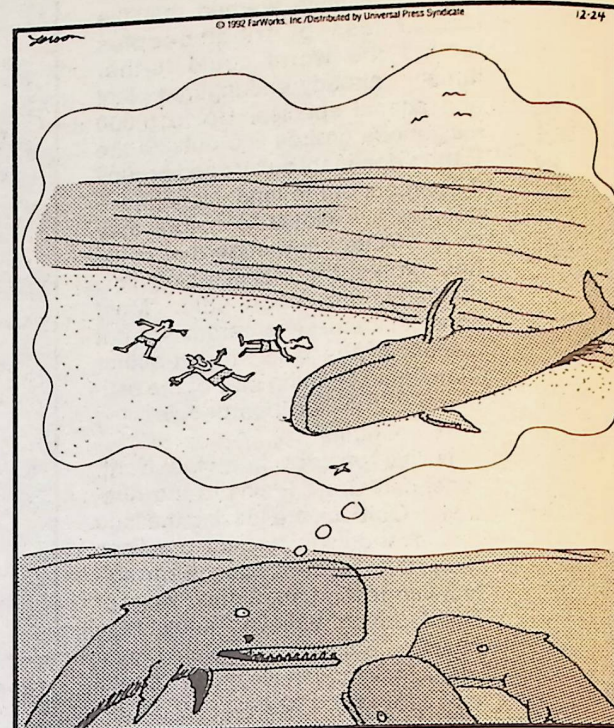
BY GARY LARSON



Careening through the neighborhood with reckless abandon, none of them suspected that Tuffy was still tied up.



Testifying before a Senate subcommittee, the Hardy boys crack the Iran-contra scandal.



"And so there I was—beached! I could hear voices all around me, but I couldn't go forward or back. And then it hit me: I could roll!"



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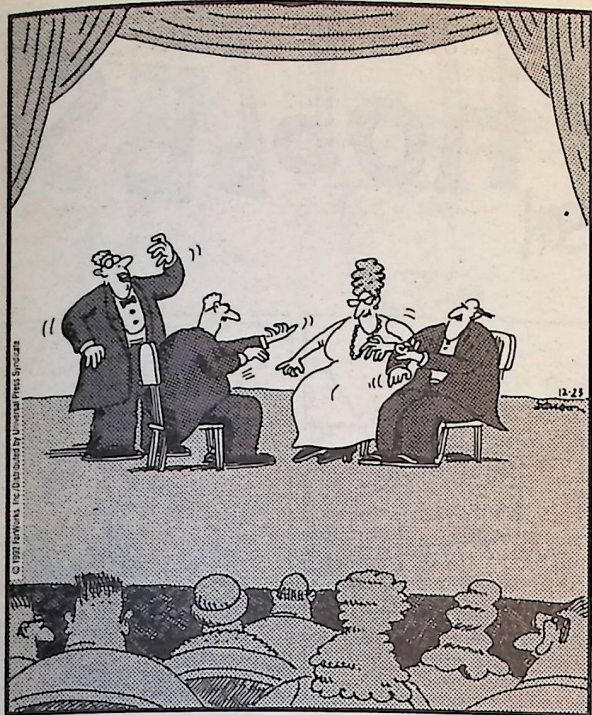
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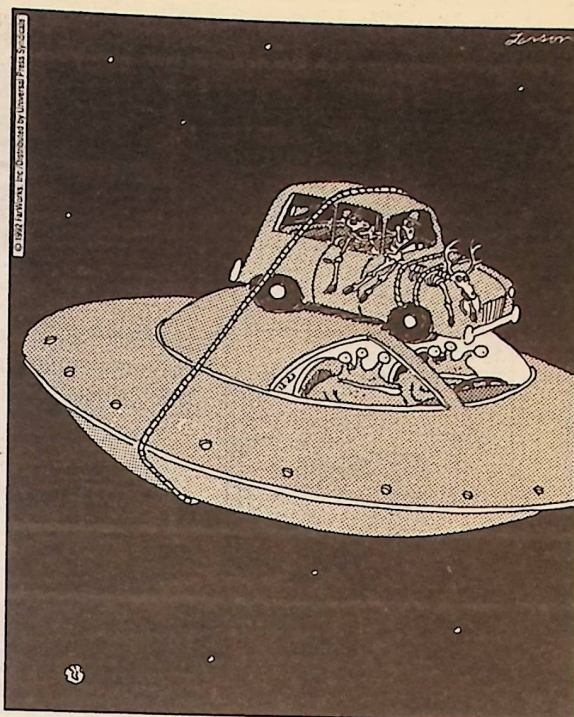
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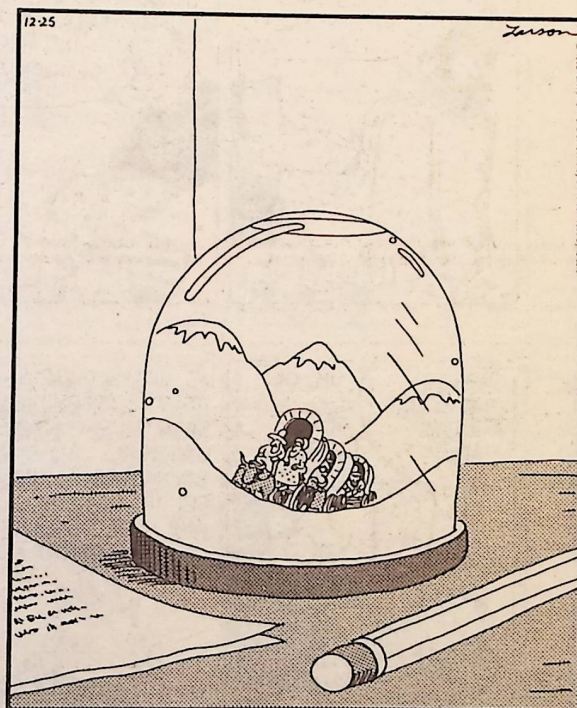
The Philadelphia Air Quartet



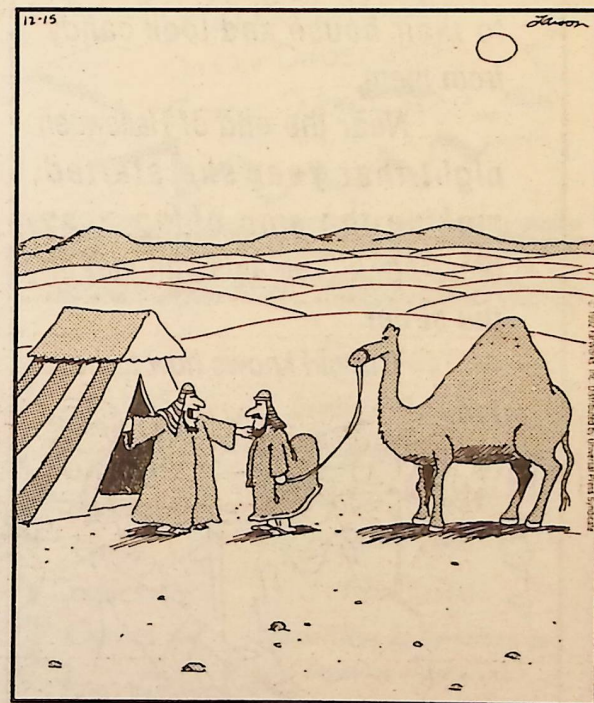
Cossaccountants



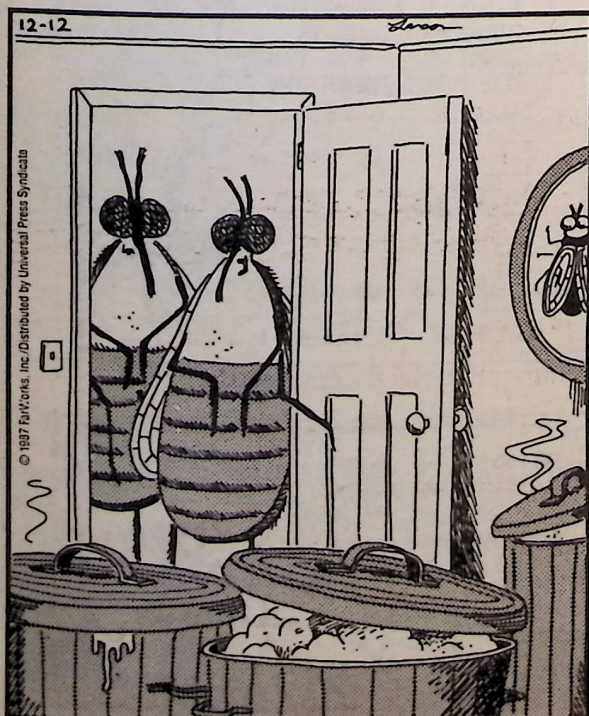
"For crying out loud, I was hibernating! ...  
Don't you guys ever take a pulse?"



The ever-popular Donner Party snow dome



"Abdul, my old friend! Come in, come in!  
Have you traveled far?!"



"And when the big moment comes,  
here's the nursery Robert and I have fixed up."



"You didn't give me a chance to elaborate, friend. ...  
Mitsy doesn't bite, but man, can she kick!"





# LEOLD at 15

by ROGER SALLOOM

My friend Marie has a perverse sense of humor.

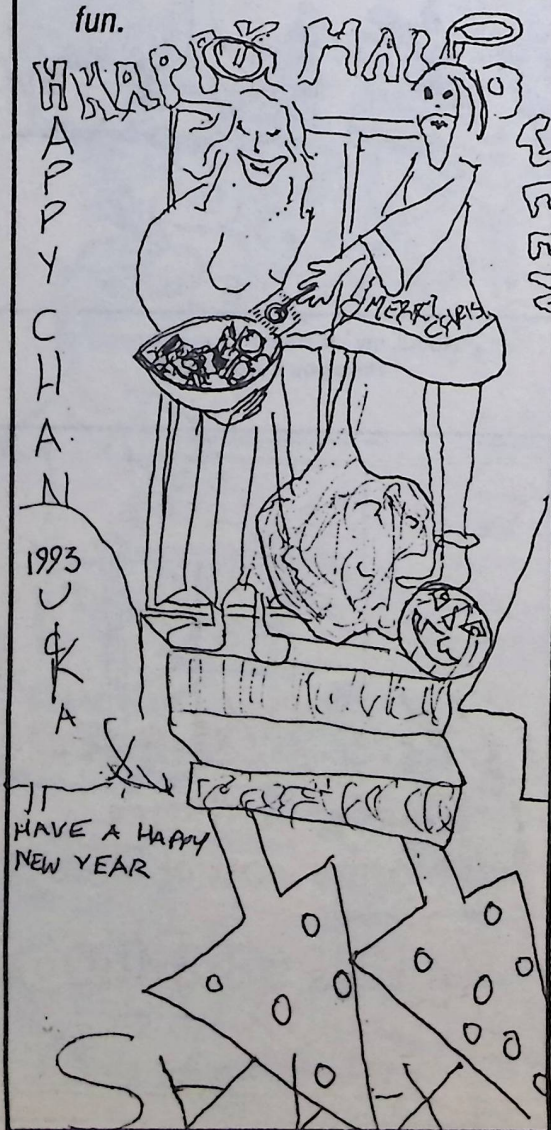
She dressed up like Santa Claus on Halloween. Instead of saying trick or treat she'd ring the door bells and yell, "Merry Christmas!"

You know how kids are always asking "Is it Christmas yet? or Is it Halloween tomorrow? Is today my birthday?" Well, that year Marie didn't help those kids.

She confused a lot of little children that night when she went to their house and took candy from them.

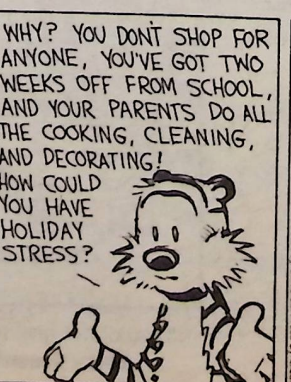
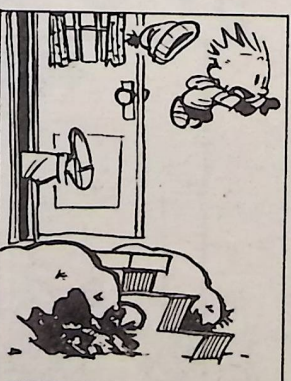
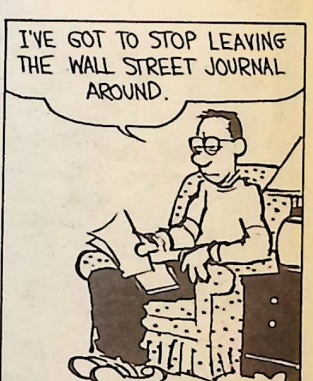
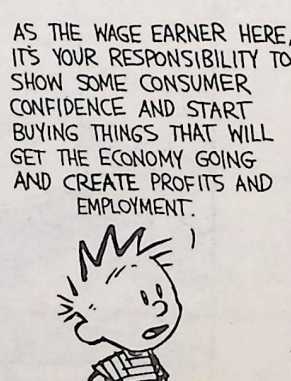
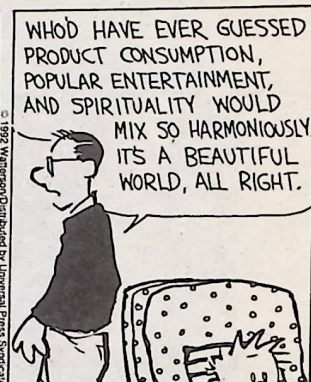
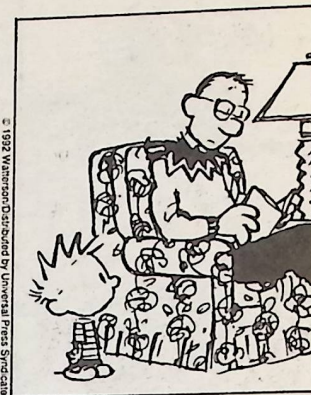
Near the end of Halloween night that year she started making the sign of the cross blessing all the kids she met on the street.

The girl knows how to have fun.

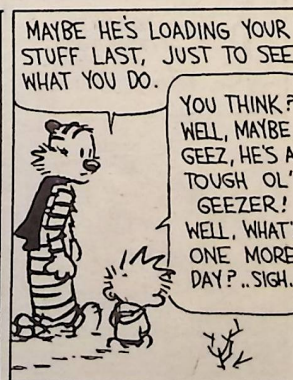
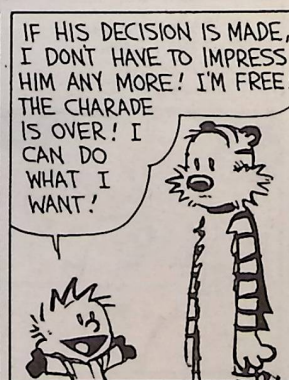
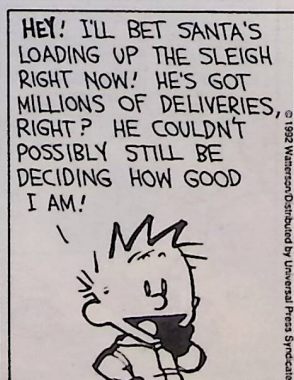
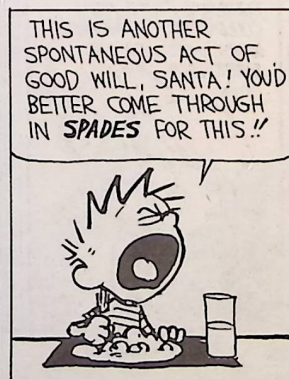
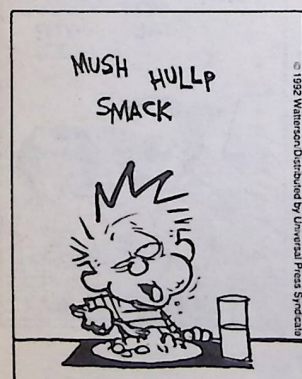
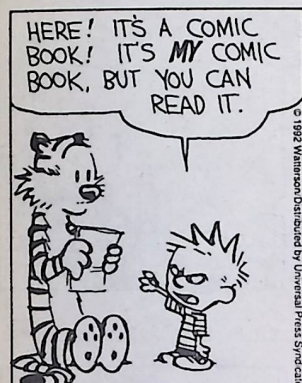
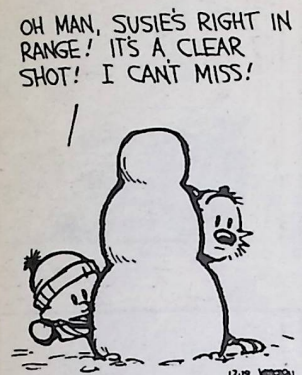
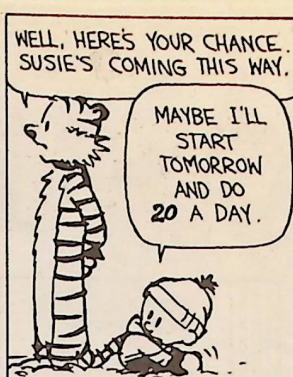


# calvin and Hobbes

by BILL WATTERSON







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# humor me

by Izzy Gesell

# Doonesbury

BY G.B. TRUDEAU

I'm in a subway car under Washington, DC, traveling from National Airport toward Union Station. Part of the fun of riding public transportation lies in playing "Create A Life," the game whose object is to scrutinize, evaluate and dismiss any person whom fate brings into your line of sight. Begin by assuming you are looking through a one way mirror, like a witness at a police lineup. Making eye contact with your subject means you're out and the round is over.

Contestant number one is a male/female tandem who board the train together. The subway car is rush-hour crowded so they stand face-to-face, left hands grasping the pole, choose-up style. He is impeccably dressed, a mannequin with a working cardiovascular system. His tassled loafers are shiny enough to peek all the way up the Statue of Liberty's dress, you could clip coupons with the crease in his trousers and the ruddy glow emanating from his face indicates he has his zits professionally popped. An unscuffed leather briefcase rests gently at his feet.

On his head is perched a bad, no make that EXTREMELY bad, toupee. This is the stimulus Pavlov used to elicit the response, "Doesn't this guy realize how bad that thing looks?" To an observer, seeing that wig is akin to knowing a secret that can't be told without getting yourself in trouble. It is juicy information that is unusable.

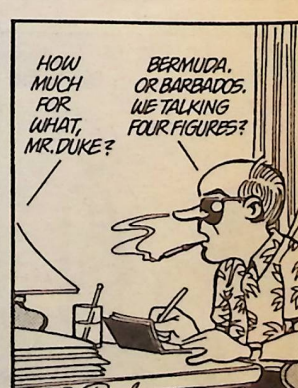
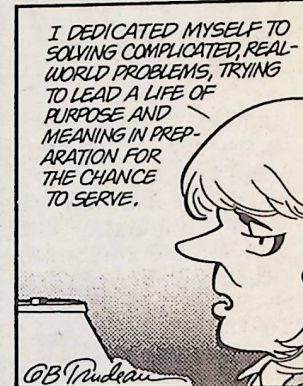
He is talking to the woman and he is driving the conversation. "Blah blah blah, meeting I went to, blah blah blah report I read, blah blah blah committee I chaired." Lost in a kind of bureaucratic reverie that allows him to feel important, he is some sort of Bill Murray character gone to Washington.

His companion is listening to this blusterer, obviously having a hard time keeping her eyes from scaling his face and peeking at the unfortunate wig. She knows she dare not glance above his chin because a bad toupee acts like a magnet. If she went any higher than his mouth she would end up staring at the monstrosity. And that would blow the whole charade. She wears a look on her face that she might use if she were making love to someone and didn't want to laugh out loud. Perhaps, she is thinking baseball statistics.

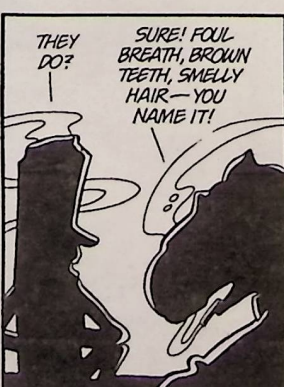
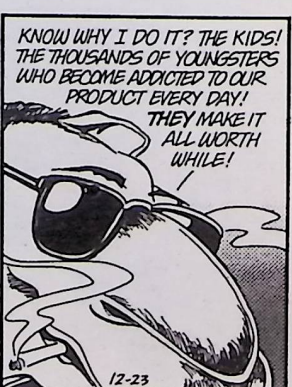
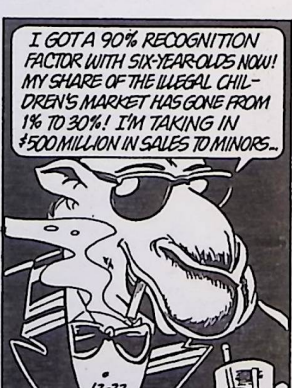
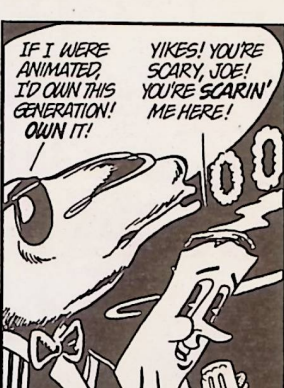
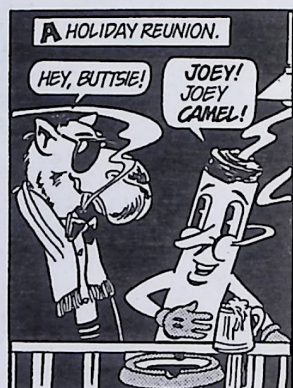
Sitting diagonally across from me, on the far side of the contestants, is a young woman in her 20's. I see her glance at the toupee, check her fingernails and then, magnetically bewitched, look again and again at the Hair Club for Men reject that is the object of both her and my scorn and amusement. Each time she looks at the piece, a small smile slides across her face, disappearing before it gets too wide and out of control.

I am in total sync with this stranger. She and I are having the same experience at the very same time. Neither of us can stop looking and laughing silently. I'm now trying to avoid the guy's gaze and hers, mostly his. Finally, we lock into each other's eyes and, after a nanosecond of connection, acknowledge our shared moment by smiling at each other. Then we each politely bow our heads and pretend to be interested in the fabric of our coats.

Reflected in this person are my deepest thoughts and reactions to the toupee. Without sharing a word, I have found a fellow conspirator and colleague, someone who read my mind as clearly as if there was a TelePrompTer in my forehead. Everyone else on the Metro is making believe they either don't see the guy or else find it quite normal. My co-conspirator and I are the ones who have admitted reality and the shared smilage bonds us together like psychic crazy glue. For a split second we are lovers; vulnerable, truthful, united against the world. Laughter as the ultimate safe sex of the 90's. Ah, my dear, whoever you are. We will always have Washington.







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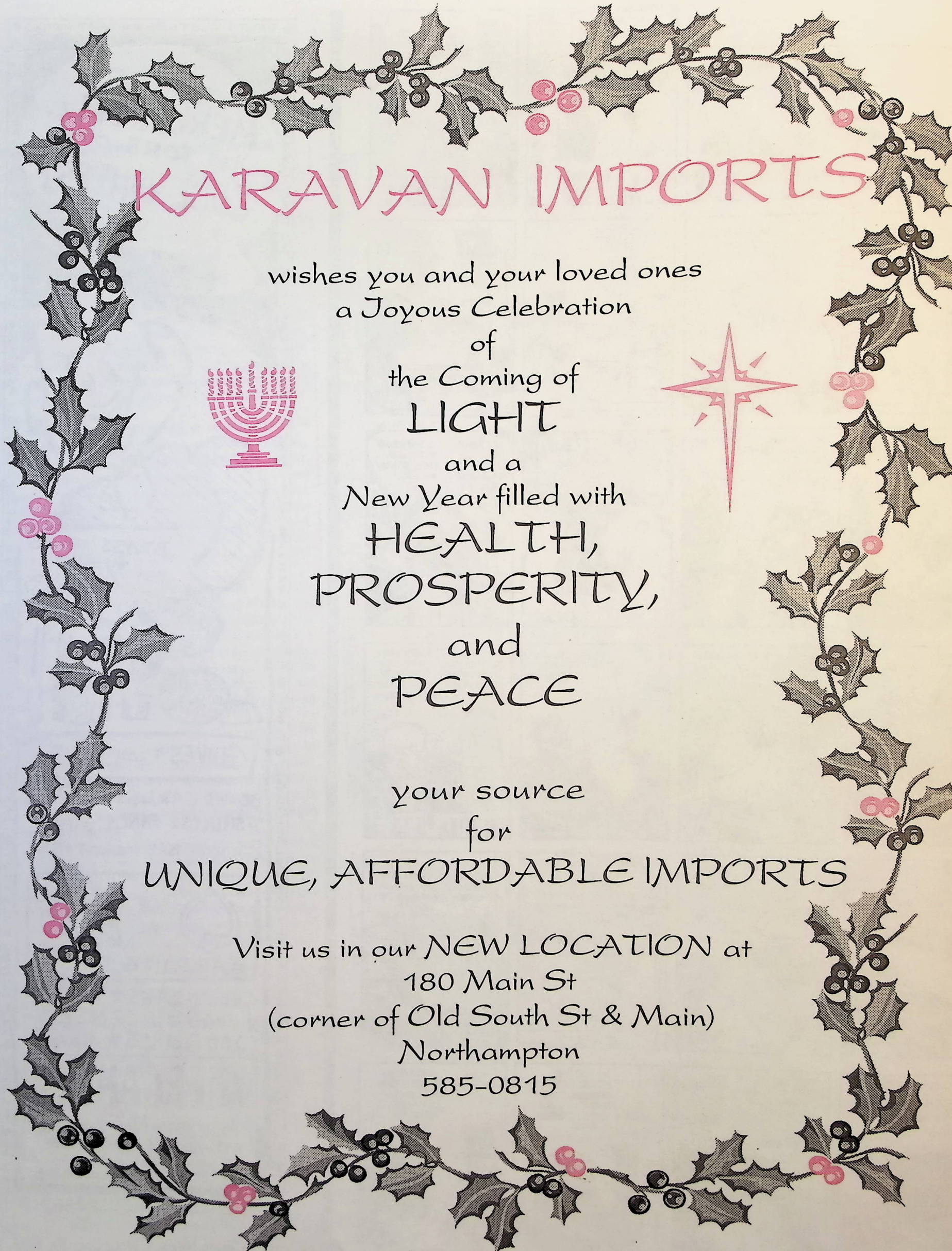
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